Message from the President

It is my great pleasure to present the ESCC’s Annual Report for 2017-2018. As you can see from the Report, the Council has continued to sponsor programs, speakers and activities for the English-speaking Catholics of the Greater Montreal area.

The past year has seen two of the members of the ESCC Advisory Committee receive recognition for their contributions to society. In October 2017, former ESCC President, MNA and MP, Clifford Lincoln was presented with the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award. The Goldbloom award is given to those individuals who have dedicated their lives to ensuring English-speaking Quebec remains a vibrant community. The President and Executive Director, along with other board members represented the Council at the Goldbloom Awards Reception. In December 2017, it was announced that Fr. John Walsh was to receive the Order of Canada. The government citation stated that Fr. Walsh is being honored “for his profound ability to forge ties and encourage dialogue between faith communities and for his long-standing commitment to charitable causes.” The Council is delighted to see these two distinguished members of our community be acknowledged for their years of dedicated service.

On November 24th, I attended a Senior Isolation Workshop co-hosted by the ESCC along with the Father Dowd Foundation. It was encouraging to see the work that Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) has undertaken for isolated seniors as well as to see seniors from the surrounding parishes of St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Augustine and St. Monica benefitting from the experience and advice of senior advocate, Ann Soden.

Our annual pre-Christmas gathering held on November 30th at Loyola High School was preceded by an excellent presentation by Dr Reginald Bibby, a well-known sociologist from the University of Lethbridge.

On February 16th, I represented the ESCC at a day-long Plenary Forum, an exchange session with English-speaking Quebeckers and Kathleen Weil, Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebeckers, and William (Bill) Floch, Assistant Secretary of the Secretariat Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebeckers.

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the English Speaking Catholic Council for the past two years. I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors and staff. I have no doubt that in the upcoming years, the Council will continue to pursue with dedication its mandate to act as a catalyst, convener and facilitator of community life and collective action for the English-speaking Catholic community of Quebec.

Diane Lemay
On November 30, 2017, the Council, in collaboration with the Office for English Pastoral Services, hosted a free, public lecture by well-known Canadian sociologist, Dr. Reginald W. Bibby. Dr. Bibby is the co-author, with Angus Reid, of the 2016 book, Canada’s Catholics and most recently, Resilient Gods. In a lively and engaging style, Bibby gave a short synopsis of the history of Catholics in Canada and then proceeded to paint a picture of the future. That future has everything to do with immigration. In less than twenty years, population growth in Canada will shift from a combination of natural increase and immigration to entirely immigration. In 2016, population growth was attributable to 30% natural increase and 70% immigration. In less than twenty years, all population growth will be owing to immigration. There is also a marked difference in religious commitment between those born in Canada and those born outside of Canada. On average, immigrants tend to be more religiously committed than the population that was born in Canada. Bibby noted that historically Catholics have had an ability to create communities for immigrant populations. Going forward, it will be important for the English-speaking Catholics of Quebec to remember and replicate this community building impetus and the Council is eager to continue to play a leading role in the animation of our community.

Immigrants & Newcomers

As Dr. Bibby’s lecture outlined, the English-speaking Catholic community in Montreal is seeing renewal and revitalization through the arrival and incorporation of immigrants and newcomers to our church communities. As rates of immigration into the Montreal area have increased over the past few years, our parishes have seen a commensurate rise in the number of newcomers looking to our parishes for assistance in settling in to their new reality. This has led to both new challenges and new opportunities for our churches.

In 2017, the Council organized a number of round table conversations with community leaders to begin the process of assessing the current situation of newcomers and our parish communities. One of the proposed actions which emerged from these meetings was the creation and implementation of an online survey administered in key parishes which have a high proportion of newcomers.

The Council has begun work on this survey and it will be undertaken in the autumn of 2018. With the information gathered from the survey, the Council will be able to effectively communicate, both to the community itself and to government agencies, the reality on the ground for the many English-speaking newcomers to Montreal. The new knowledge provided by the survey will also allow the Council to more effectively collaborate with other community groups in the creation of new networks and projects which will benefit newcomers and immigrants.

Seniors

The Council continues to host events and work with other community partners to assist and educate English-speaking seniors. As a follow-up to the workshop held November 18, 2016, it was suggested that Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) be invited to report on the past year of their work on the pilot project GPS (Getting to Programs and Services). In cooperation with the Father Dowd Foundation, the ESCC hosted this workshop in November 2017. Following the morning session which showcased the SAQ project, lawyer and Elder Law specialist, Ann Soden spoke about her work at the Elder Law clinic and answered general questions specific to the concerns of senior citizens. This was an event designed for the English-speaking seniors of the area and it was advertised in the surrounding English-speaking parishes: St. Monica’s, St. Ignatius and St. Augustine’s. The Council was pleased to welcome a good number of the community to this informative session.
Government relations

At the tail end of 2017, the Quebec government announced the establishment of a new Secretariat for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, and that Bill Floch would be heading it up. The announcement, following fast upon that of MNA Kathleen Weil being made Minister for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, was a welcome one for the minority language community in Quebec. This move is the culmination of a number of years of collaborative work by the Quebec Community Groups Network which has long been advocating for an instrument for effective representation of the minority language community within the provincial government. By establishing this Secretariat, the Couillard government is in some ways emulating Ontario’s Ministry of Francophone Affairs which has a staff of 20 and a budget of $5.3 million. Minister Weil and her team hit the ground running and during January 2018, engaged in 16 hours of online consultations with 65 community groups and leaders. The ESCC was one of the groups which participated in the consultations. The Council was also present at the Forum held on February 23, 2018, at which Minister Weil presented the initial findings of the consultations. The Council has developed a liaison with the Secretariat team based in Montreal. Bill Floch, Assistant Secretary of the Secretariat, is scheduled to speak at the ESCC AGM, which will provide an excellent opportunity for the members of the ESCC to learn more of this new initiative.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ACRA
Association of Catholic Retired Administrators
www.acra.ca

Adult Religious Education Services
www.adultreligiouseducation.org

Aid to the Church in Need
www.aidtothechurch.inneed.org

Almage Senior Community Centre
www.almage.org

Ancient Order of Hibernians
www.aoih.org

Auberge Madeleine
www.aubergemadeleine.org

Bandaloo Youth and Family Centres Foundation
www.bandaloo.org

Benedict Labre House
www.benedictlabre.ca

Camp-Carls
www.gccrc.org

Camp-Kinora
www.campkinora.com

Canadian Centre for Eucumenism
www.educum.ca

Catholic Action Montreal

Catholic Charismatic Services of Montreal

Catholic Christian Outreach

Catholic Times Montreal Inc. (archives)

Catholic Women’s League of Canada

CCS – Collective Community Services

Centre for Reproductive Lois

Centre for Research and Education on Catholicism

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Montreal

Citizen-Advisory Montreal

City House Foundation

Commissioner of Official Languages

Communication and Libration Bureau

Community and Family Services Network

Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CLUCSA)
www.clucsa.com

Consensus Mediation Centre (CMC)

Couples for Christ (CFC)

Crib and Cose, Franciscan Minisiters
www.sacerdotesfranciscanos.com

Dans La Rue (Le Bon Dieu)
www.danslarue.org

Department of Theological Studies, Concordia University
www.theologicalstudies.concordia.ca

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada
www.developmentandpeace.ca

Discipleship Camp-Association (DCA)

Discipleship Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family (DCMLF)

Discipleship Family Camp
www.dfc-kinkora.ca

Discipleship Liturgy Camp
www.dfc-kinkora.com

Discipleship Liturgy Services
www.discipleshipliturgy.ca

Discipleship Office for Faith Education
www.discipleshipliturgy.ca

Discipleship Office for Faith Education
www.federaleducation.bmfl.org

Discipleship Office of the Paidilof of Montreal (DCP)

Discipleship Visions Camp
www.dfc-kinkora.com

Discipleship Vocations

Discipleship Youth in Action Camp

Discipleship Youth Ministry Office
www.discipleshipliturgy.ca

Don Bosco Mission Station
www.dominusvobiscum.org

En Route Foundation

Executives Available

Family Matters / The Marriage Workshop
www.dabch.ca/family

Father Dosed Foundation

Father Dosed Residence

Father Dosed Residence Auxiliary

Foundation of Catholic Community Services Inc.
www.fccsi.org

Holy Cross Residence

Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal
www.ignite.org

Institute For Christian Communities

Justice, Rights and Ministry of Creation Office (JRC)
www.jrmcreation.org

Knights of Columbus

L’Abri en Ville
www.abrienville.org

L’Arche Montreal Inc.
www.archemontreal.org

Legion of Mary – Montreal Curia

Loginh Inc.

Montreal

Loyola Alumni Founding Chapter
www.concordia.ca/laksm-foch

Loyola High School

Loyola High School Alumni and Associates
www.loyola.ca

Loyola High School Foundation
www.loyola.ca

Marquette Bourgeois Museum and Chapel
www.marquettebourgeois.com

Marriage Preparation (Diocesan)

MECUM Contemplative Christian Community

MENTATO

The Canadian Christian Meditation Community
www.mentato.ca

Montreal Challenge Movement

Montreal Directaid Agencies
www.montrealdirectaid.ca

Montreal English Catholic Currelio Movement

Montreal Family Life

Montreal St. Patrick Foundation

Naziach Community

Nazaeh House & Anrek House

Newman Association of Montreal Inc.
www.montrealnewman.org

Notre-Dame-de-Deo-Secours Chapel

Notre-Dame-de-Deo-Secours Chapel
www.notredamededeosecours.ca

Notre Dame de Sion Elementary School (Bilingual)
www.ndbs.ca

Office for English Pastoral Services (OPS)

Pastoral Home Care Services (S.A.S.M.A.D. – English Sector)
www.php.ca

Peace, Freedom and Healing Ministry
www.peacefreedomhealing.org

Pillar’s Trust Fund Inc.

Quebec Community Groups Network
www.qcgn.ca

Quebec: Life Coalition
www.lapac.qc.ca

Redeemer Project Chance Inc.

Sacred Heart School of Montreal
www.spsquare.ca

Saint-Antoine 50th Community Centre

Salvation Youth Centre
(Ben Boesch Youth Leadership Centre)
www.salvationyouthcentre.ca

Separated and Divorced Catholics

Social Action Ministry Office (Diocesan)

Social Justice Connection
www.sjc.org

St. Margaret Residence

St. Mary’s Hospital Auxiliary

St. Mary’s Hospital Centre

St. Patrick’s Hospital

St. Mary’s Hospital Foundation

Thomas More Institute

United Irish Societies of Montreal Inc.
www.uismontreal.ca

Villa Maria Foundation

Vila Maria High School

West Island Catholic Advocacy
www.wicadvocacy.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WME)
www.wme.ca

www.qcgn.ca